PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

40th Anniversary - 2016

2016 will be a year of celebration for Regents Park Christian School. We are planning to host our main period of celebration at the end of August.

2016 also marks 40 years of Christian schooling as we were the first Christian Community School in Australia.

Some of the highlights will include:

- 40th Anniversary celebrations
- Completion of Stage 2 Primary Building Project
- Introduction of collaborative learning and teaching across all Primary classes
- Commencement of a second Primary Coordinator
- 12 classes in Primary (2018 – full 14 classes)
- Introduction of Gifted & Talented Coordinator position
- Acquisition of land swap with Dooley’s Bowling Club
- Creation of a redesigned playground to accommodate a larger Primary school
- Full school inspection by the Board of Studies
- Completion of a new carpark in Regent Street
- Completion of a pedestrian crossing in Kingsland Road
- Remodelling of Secondary staff rooms
- Significantly increased expenditure on technology
- Completion of a School Strategic Master Plan

Our dedicated staff are already planning for 2016 and there is a real sense of community as we prepare to commence this new venture. It marks the conclusion of our last 5 Year Development Plan and, with the introduction of the Strategic Master Plan, we will develop the next 5 Year Plan.

While we will say “goodbye” to a number of faithful and long-serving staff members, we have been pleased with the quality of the new staff who have accepted positions for 2016. They are all very excited to be part of our community and are looking forward to becoming part of our innovative teaching team.

We are also pleased with the willingness of staff to set high expectations of themselves and their students. The term ‘excellence’ – excellent teachers and excellent learners – is increasingly being used by staff to explain their personal and professional goals.

We are hoping that there will be plenty of opportunity for families to celebrate and participate in the events throughout 2016. Please pray for our school as we commence this exciting new phase in the life of RPCS.

Gary Brummell, Principal
BOYS’ HAIRSTYLES

If your son is needing a haircut, please ensure that they do not talk you into a comb-over style (pictured).

As described in the Primary and Senior Handbooks: hair must be worn neatly and must not cover the collar or fall below the eyebrows. Hair should be cut in a conservative style and of even length. No part of the hair may be shorter than a No. 2 comb/clipper.

Students may face suspension from school for breaches of this policy.

GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO SCHOOL ABSENCES

The Minister for Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015. These changes are effective from the beginning of the 2015 school year. In short, the new standard states:

*Holidays - Holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption will no longer be granted for this purpose.* Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel during a school term IS NECESSARY, a request for absence should be addressed to the Principal clearly explaining the reason for the travel, the dates of absence, and, if travelling overseas, a copy of the itinerary should be attached. If the Principal does not believe the absence is in the best interests of the student or does not accept the reason, the student will be marked as absent on the register. If the absence is in excess of 50 days the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education. *(NB: A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school concurrently – including Distance Education).*

KINDERGARTEN 2016

Kindergarten enrolments for 2016 are filling fast. If you have a younger child who you hope to start Kindergarten at RPCS in 2016 you need to put in an application form immediately and notify our Enrolment Officer, Diane Dorizas. It would be sad if your child missed out.

2015 END OF YEAR DATE – PRIMARY

The last day for Primary is **Wednesday 2 December**

2015 END OF YEAR DATES – SECONDARY

The last day for Secondary

(Year 7-9 and **Year 11**) is **Thursday 3 December**

The last day for **Year 10** is **Thursday 27 November**

START DATES - 2016

*All Year 7 and all NEW students commence on Friday 29 January 2016

*All returning students (Years 1-6 & 8-12) commence on **Monday 1 February 2016** (Term 1 begins)

*Kindergarten commences on **Tuesday 2 February 2016**
UNIFORM SHOP

Open  Fridays (term time) 8am–12pm & 12.30–4.00pm

The Uniform Shop gratefully accepts donations of 2nd hand uniforms as they are of great assistance to families in our community. Donations can be left at the office or brought in to the Uniform Shop on Fridays.

Layby is available if you would like to have items set aside and pay them off slowly. Items can also be put on hold.

Online ordering available! Information and order forms can be found on the website under the RPCS ‘Today’ tab. Orders are packed on Friday and sent home with students.

Name labels: Personalised, iron-on name labels are available for $0.50 each. The labels are to be ironed on at home and will come with instructions. Each Secondary blazer sold will have a free label included.

FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

Regents Park Youth & Families and the Auburn City Council are providing free breakfast (cereal, toast, fruit) at the Regents Park Community Hub on Thursday mornings during school term from 7 – 8.40am. Children do have to make their own breakfast but parents should accompany young children to ensure they get to school safely. This program is staffed by volunteers who have a Working With Children Check. All attendees are required to sign in.

What: Free Breakfast Program for students
Where: Regents Park Community Hub
(attached to Regents Park Library – station side)
Amy Street, Regents Park
When: Thursday mornings (term time only) 7 – 8.40 am
Who: All students. Younger students should be accompanied by a parent/older sibling.
For more information, contact Raema Koteka: 0449573143

HEALTHY CANTEEN - School Canteen Initiative

The Fresh Tastes NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy is all about giving students across NSW a taste for healthy foods. It is a government-endorsed approach that helps schools determine the healthier types and frequency of foods that are available for sale in their canteens. RPCS is moving to adopt this strategy.

Why is healthy food in schools important?
Nutrition is particularly important in the childhood years which are a time of rapid growth and development. Healthy eating has a long lasting and positive impact on a child’s growth, development and health. In addition, healthy eating will maximise a child’s concentration and ability to learn. Nutrition during childhood is also important in preventing lifestyle diseases such as obesity, dental disease, Type 2 Diabetes, hypertension and, in later life, osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease and a range of cancers. For children, the issue of healthy weight is also of importance. The incidence of overweight and obesity in children and young people in Australia has increased dramatically in recent years with 1 in 4 children overweight or obese. This has serious long and short-term health consequences. Excess weight gain in children is usually a result of eating too much food or the wrong type of food, combined with low energy expenditure – doing too little physical activity or being inactive for too much of the day. Children who are overweight or obese are at high risk of low self-esteem, poor body image, risk taking behaviour and depression. School is a great environment to promote an enjoyment of healthy eating and to nurture a positive body image.

For many students who use the canteen regularly, the food purchased there makes a significant contribution to their total food intake and nutrition. For those students who do not use the school canteen or food service regularly, the canteen still plays an important educational and modelling role for healthy eating habits.

In addition to the provision of nutritious food, the canteen has an important role within the broader school environment in complementing the knowledge, skills and behaviours about healthy eating and lifestyles that are taught in the classroom. The food provided within the school environment has a considerable influence on the development of children’s long-term eating habits, food preferences and attitudes towards food. The school canteen can play an important role in promoting healthy foods and creating a school culture of healthy eating. This can extend beyond the school environment and influence food choices within the family and community and enhance the social and multicultural aspects of food and eating. Term 4 2015 will involve planning, communicating and transitioning changes that will take place so that we are operating in line with this strategy from Term 1 2016. Stay tuned for more information.

More information is available at Fresh Tastes NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy
PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS on STUDENT INTERNET SAFETY

The TtEDSC project originates from the federally funded BEESS Program. It is a project managed by the Association of Independent School (AIS) organisations for all independent schools in Australia. All you will need is an internet connected computer with some speakers. You will be supplied with a time and single web address to click to join the webinar. No registration required. You will see and hear the presenters and can interact through a Q & A tool. The first webinar is for all parents and is presented by a very experienced law officer and will give some vital insight into what your children maybe encountering in the digital world and your possible role in helping them navigate that world. The second webinar is particularly relevant to Parents of Year 12 students who may be about to negotiate “Schoolies” festivities.

Internet Safety – Your children and the web

See session description: http://tinyurl.com/AIS-parents-2

NB – Parents are not required to register

Date: 10 November 2015

Time: 8:00 PM (EDST)

Four key messages:

• The internet is a safe and valuable place
• Our children need to be part of that world
• As parents we already have the skills to help our children
• We have to be a part of that process

Specific Topics covered include:

• Protective and Preventative Measures
• The Law and the Internet
• Social Networking
• Instant Messaging and Communication
• Cyberbullying
• Sexting

Please click the webinar link below 5 minutes before agreed time: https://zoom.us/j/405810855

INESS creator, Brett Lee worked as a Queensland Police Officer for 22 years - 16 of those as a Detective predominantly in the field of Child Exploitation. In his last 5 years of service, he was a specialist in the field of undercover internet child exploitation investigations. Brett has been personally involved in the online Investigation, arrest and prosecution of numerous offenders, whose medium for preying on children is the Internet. Further to Brett’s experience, he has completed the FBI Advanced Internet Investigations Course and has worked with the FBI Innocent Images Unit, Maryland USA, the Department of Homeland Security Cyber Crimes Centre, Virginia USA and the San Jose Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, California, USA.

Introduction of the School Opal Card

From Term 1 2016, Transport NSW will be issuing School Opal cards to students eligible for travel under the School Student Transport Scheme via a new online application process.

Transport for NSW - 2016

Only the following students need to re-apply for 2016:

• Students going into Year 3 -2016 and Year 7 2016
• Students starting at Regents Park Christian School
• Students whose details have changed (e.g. address)

How to apply

Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students
Step 2 Print, sign & submit the form to the school for endorsement
Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport NSW for processing.

Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the school Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicants email address is required.

If you have any further clarifications please contact Mrs Simion in the front office 02 9644 5144

Travel Pass for Trains and Buses

Students starting Year 3 or Year 7 in 2016

Students who have had a school travel pass in Years K, 1 & .2 must apply again when going into Year 3.

Students going into Year 7 must also apply again because eligibility rules are different for students in Years 3 -6 and change again for Years 7-12. You will also need a new application if you change address.

Apply early for 2016 -New Travel Applications

Please collect your Transport Form from the office. Complete a separate application form for each transport operator used to travel to and from school e.g. you will need 2 forms to apply for 2 passes if your child needs to travel by bus and rail to get to school.

You can use the Form to apply for travel on:

• Private buses and Ferries
• State Transit buses and Ferries
• City Rail train
The annual Bus Shopping Tour will be held on Saturday 21 November 2015. We will depart Regents Park Christian School at 7.30am so we need people to arrive by 7.15am. The cost is $58 p/person which includes travel on a coach, lunch and morning tea. Parking is available in the school grounds. Money raised goes back into the community through Heartbeat Community Care. Children under 16 travel free but you will have to pay for their lunch which will be $13.00 each. Please contact Kim Stevens on 0419282239 to book or for further information

HEARTBEAT COMMUNITY CHOIR

Everyone is welcome
Every Tuesday from 9.00 am - 9.50 am
@ Heartbeat Church (61 Regents St)
Enjoy Singing, Friendship and Morning Tea
Donation $5 per session
Contact: 9738 9799 or familychaplain@heartbeatchurch.org.au

HEARTBEAT COMMUNITY CARE
welcomes donations of:
• quality, 2nd hand clothing, shoes;
• homewares (no electricals)

Our Emergency Relief program welcomes donations of non-perishable food items such as canned soup, Weet-Bix and basic hygiene items such as toothpaste.
All donations can be dropped off at Heartbeat Community Care (Shop 1/5 Amy Street, Regents Park) or at the Heartbeat Church office (61 Regents Street, Regents Park).

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES
We invite you to join our fun and friendly English language classes where you can learn and share.
When: Every Tuesday during school terms
Time: Between 10 and 11.30am
Where: Heartbeat Church, 61 Regent St, Regents Park

Mums & Bubs
Supported Playgroup
Run by Heartbeat Church
Who: For children 0 – 5 Yrs
When: Every Friday (during school terms)
Time: 10.30am - 12.15pm
Where: Regents Park Christian School
Play time, Morning tea, Story, Craft, Music
Fee: $2 per session
Primary Parent Information Night – Wed 18 Nov

As you will have seen, our building program is proceeding along well. Keep praying that we continue to enjoy favour with weather and for protection for the builders. We will be having an Information Evening on Wednesday 18 November to share with our parents how our new building will support our learning initiatives. A letter was sent home this week providing more information. It will not be a long meeting and we encourage all parents to attend.

PRIMARY SENIOR BASKETBALL GALA DAY

Last Monday, our Stage 3 boy and girl basketball teams attended a CSSA Senior Primary Gala Day. Both teams played very well and exemplified the spirit of encouragement and sportsmanship for which we had prayed at the start of the day. This was our first gala day and we were happy for the opportunity to attend! The boys’ team advanced to the finals where they competed bravely against Oxford Falls Grammar School! We were very proud of each of our competitors and acknowledge the hard work of their coaches – Mr Trent Callus and Mr Alex Jennings. Thank you, as well, to our formidable Secondary helpers: Jeremiah Leviste and Jordon Sarraf!

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) VALUE: Value: Follow teacher instructions!

Next week, our focus will again be on showing respect by “Following teacher instructions.” We honour those in authority by listening to them and then doing what they ask us to do. As parents, we can model obedience to our children by showing them how we obey God’s Word. As well, by training our children to do what we ask, we are discipling the them to then obey God.

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY - TERM 4

Parents and friends are welcome to attend any time, particularly when your child’s class is sharing at Assembly.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2M</td>
<td>6 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2S</td>
<td>13 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4A</td>
<td>20 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation Assembly</td>
<td>27 November</td>
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PRIMARY - END OF YEAR MUSICAL COSTUMES

Our End of Year Musical will be held on Friday evening, 27 November. We are asking that students dress in all white - T-shirts, singlets, shirts, skirts, pants, shorts or dresses. We ask that whatever is worn be completely white (no logos, writing, images). Visit the Heartbeat Shop, Lifeline, Salvos or Vinnies and see what they have on offer!
CANCER COUNCIL NUTRITION SNIPPETS

Healthy eating can also reduce our risk of cancer. Hopefully these ideas from NSW Cancer Council will help you prepare healthy alternatives for your children’s lunch.

**The simplest way**

...to make tabbouleh.

**Ingredients**
1 cup cracked wheat (bulgar)
2 large ripe tomatoes, diced
1 small cucumber, diced
3 spring onions, finely sliced
1 bunch parsley, chopped
1 bunch mint, chopped
2 tbsp lemon juice
1 tbsp olive oil

**Method**
Cover the cracked wheat with water and soak for 15 minutes || Mix with remaining ingredients and serve chilled || Makes a great addition to your kids’ lunch box – add to sandwiches/wraps or send in a small container.

**Tips**
For best results, use flat leaf parsley when available. For a more substantial meal: add 425g can drained chickpeas; or serve with grilled fish or meat and flatbread.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.
CONGRATULATIONS SAMUEL McLEAN

Sam McLean (Year 11) has been awarded a Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute Award for School Science. Victor Chang was a gifted Australian surgeon who did a lot of pioneering work in heart surgery, particularly heart transplants. The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute was started after his death, as a way of remembering his contribution and continuing the work that he was involved in. As well as their work in cardiac research, the Institute also has an interest in promoting scientific research more generally and promoting an interest in science. They developed the VCCRI School Science Award to encourage an interest in science among Secondary school students and promote science as a rewarding career choice.

Schools were asked to nominate a Year 11 student to receive an award. Selection criteria was to be determined by the school, with preference given to students showing an interest in science and a desire to pursue a career in a science-based area. In RPCS, each Year 11 Science teacher nominated two students from their class. From those nominated, Samuel McLean was chosen. Sam is studying all three sciences – physics, chemistry and biology, suggesting a strong interest in Science! The awards were presented on Monday afternoon at Bankstown Library by Dr Joshua Ho from the VCCRI and Mr Khal Asfour, Mayor of Bankstown. Mrs White, Mr Alexander and Miss Morley also attended to represent the school.

2015 HSC RESULTS

This year’s HSC results will be delivered to students by email and SMS from 6am on Wednesday 16 December. They will also be available to students via their secure Students Online accounts. HSC students will have received a personalised “Student Details Form” after the second HSC English examination on 13 October. Please encourage your students to log in to Students Online to check their details are correct. If they have any questions, they should ring the Inquiry Centre on 1300 13 83 23.

‘INKLINGS’ WRITERS CLUB - ALL WELCOME!

Students from Years 7-12 are most welcome to join the group on Monday afternoons from 3-4pm in F12. Mr Perera, Ms Evangelista and Mrs Duong would love to see you there!
YEAR 10 - END OF YEAR INFORMATION

Please note: Tuesday 24/11/2015
Students will be in school attending Year 11 classes and receiving information about their chosen subjects for next year. Even if your child is not attending RPCS, next year, it is a compulsory school attendance day. Please ensure all students attend in full school uniform.

| Week 7 | Mon 16 - Fri 20 Nov | SEMESTER 2 EXAMS | Full school uniform including bag
Compulsory attendance |
|--------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|        | Monday 23/11/2015   | BOYS WELLBEING DAY
GIRLS WELLBEING DAY | Sensible Mufti
Covered sport shoes essential
Compulsory attendance |
|        | Tues 24/11/2015     | YEAR 11 INFORMATION MORNING
SENIOR SUBJECT TASTER LESSONS | Full School Uniform
Including bag and diary
Compulsory attendance |
|        | Wed 25/11/2015      | BOYS WELLBEING DAY
GIRLS WELLBEING DAY | Sensible Mufti
Covered sport shoes essential
Compulsory attendance |
|        | Thurs 26/11/2015    | JAMBEROO (Last day 2015) | Sensible mufti and sun protection
T-shirts and board shorts over swimwear please
Covered shoes essential for some rides |